

**Remarks:**

Applicants are cancelling claims 1-30, without prejudice, and are adding new claims 31-61. No new matter is added by these amendments, and these amendments are fully supported by the specification. Applicants respectfully request entry of these amendments. Applicants are enclosing a check including excess claim fees for eleven (11) claims in excess of twenty (20) total claims, based on the number claims remaining after entry of this Preliminary Amendment. Nevertheless, in the event of any variance between the fees determined by Applicants and those determined by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, please charge or credit any such variance to the Undersigned's Deposit Account No. 02-0375.

**Conclusion:**

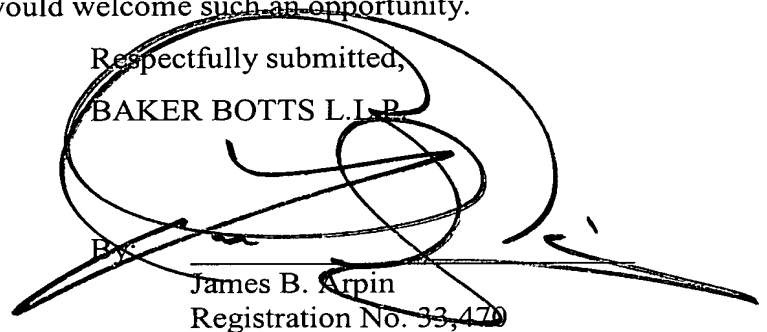
Applicants respectfully submit that this application, as amended, is in condition for allowance, and such disposition is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that an interview with Applicants' representatives, either in person or by telephone, would expedite prosecution of this application, we would welcome such an opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,  
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